

REMARKS

The Abstract has been amended to comply with the requirement that it contain less than 150 words.

The previous claims have been canceled and new claims 33-43 are now presented. It is believed that these new claims obviate any prior rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

With respect to the enablement rejection raised to the limitation "the pressure sensitive adhesive ... further comprising a count of generated particles", Applicants point out that on page 47 of the specification a method for determining the count of generated particles is set forth. Therefore, it is not seen how the Examiner can contend that one skilled in the art following the described method in conjunction with the Semiconductor Production Apparatus and Material International Associate Doc. No. 2362 would need undue experimentation to practice the claimed invention.

In further support, Applicants enclose a copy of the described method (Test Method for the Measurement of Particle Generation from Sheet Materials determined by SEMI G67-0996). In this regard, we note that the specification described the test method as being in accordance with Semiconductor Production Apparatus and Material International Associate Doc. No. 2362. The Semiconductor Production Apparatus and Material International Associate, however, was changed into Semiconductor Equipment and Materials International (SEMI), and the measuring method described in Doc. No. 2362 was changed into SEMI G67-00996. Accordingly, the claim terminology was changed to reflect this change. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

The term "lint-free paper" was considered to be indefinite. Applicants respectfully disagree. The term "lint-free paper" is a well known term of art. In fact, a search of the World Wide Web will reveal many sources for lint-free paper. Moreover, lint-free paper is also known as clean room paper. In view of the prevalence of this term, Applicants contend that it is not indefinite and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

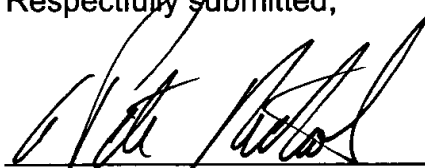
Turning now to the rejection based on JP 08-245932 alone or in combination with Meyer, Applicants respectfully traverse. The present invention is directed to a pressure sensitive adhesive sheet with a release sheet that includes a pressure sensitive adhesive sheet that comprises a base and a pressure sensitive adhesive layer provided on the base; and a release sheet removably attached to the pressure sensitive adhesive sheet. The release sheet comprises a release sheet base and a releasing agent layer provided on the release sheet base with the releasing agent layer being attached to the pressure sensitive adhesive layer of the pressure sensitive adhesive sheet and containing substantially no silicone compound. The base of the pressure sensitive adhesive sheet and the release sheet base are formed from a plastic film or a lint-free paper, and the count of generated particles having a diameter of 0.1 μm or more generated from the pressure sensitive adhesive sheet with the release sheet is equal to or less than 100 particles / liter when measured according to Test Method for the Measurement of Particle Generation from Sheet Materials determined by SEMI G67-0996.

The claimed sheet is especially suitable for use with electronic devices such as hard disc drives, because it contains substantially no silicone compound and because fewer particles are generated from the claimed sheet.

In contrast, the cited references do not disclose or teach the presently claimed features. For example, the cited references do not teach or suggest any means for suppressing the occurrence of the generation of particles. The advantage to the claimed sheet is that the generation of dust or particles, which are liable to adversely affect the reading and writing of data, can be substantially reduced or eliminated. The present claims define a level below which the generated particles should fall. Neither JP 08-245932 nor Meyer teach nor suggest such a level, a method for determining whether the sheet meets that level, or the advantages resulting from such limitation. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Applicants believe that all the claims are in condition to be allowed and respectfully request the same. If, for any reason, the Examiner feels that the above amendments and remarks do not put the claims in condition for allowance, the undersigned attorney can be reached at (312) 321-4276 to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Peter Nichols', is written over a horizontal line.

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